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ABSTRACT

This brief report outlines the preliminary plans of the University of Hawaii to develop a student flow model for its seven community colleges. This model will indicate the flow of students--progressing through class levels, changing majors, leaving or withdrawing from the institution. It will be used as a basic tool for planning and management systems. Before the model is developed, five reports will be made: (1) a summary of the number of students who apply for admission, the number who are accepted to that campus, and the number who actually register at that campus for the particular semester; (2) a study of the "no-shows," those students accepted by a particular campus who did not register there for the term; (3) a summary of attrition rates, end-of-semester changes (withdrawals and graduates), and changes of majors; (4) a study of the present activities of students who were expected to continue their registration, but who "disappeared" between semesters; and (5) a study of the present activities of graduates and their evaluations of their community college experiences. Analysis will be in terms of the community college system total and each campus. Entering students will be classified as "new to higher education" or transfers, and data by sex and program (liberal arts, vocational education, and other), will be presented. (DC)

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STUDENT FLOW PROJECT

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Report No. 1

Student Flow Project

December 1975

Office of the Chancellor for Community Colleges
Institutional Research Unit
University of Hawaii

JC 760 069

STUDENT FLOW PROJECT
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

General Nature

Many colleges and universities have recently developed or are developing student flow models as a basic tool for planning and management systems.* Of significant impact on an institution is the flow of students--progressing through class levels, changing of majors, leaving or withdrawing from the institution.

This student flow project of the community colleges includes the above features as well as several other important components. In brief the following types of reports are envisioned:

1. Application/Acceptance/Registration: A summary will be prepared of the number of students who apply for admission, the number who are accepted by that campus, and the number who actually register at that campus for the particular semester.

2. Applicant No Shows: In order to find out the reason for non-registration, a study will be made of no shows (students accepted by a particular campus but who fail to register there for the term).

3. Continuing/Non-Continuing Students: Data will be summarized to show attrition rates, end-of-semester changes (withdrawals and graduates), and changes of majors. Entering groups of students may be studied for six semesters.

4. Non-Continuing Students: A study will be made of students who "disappear" between semesters; these are students who were expected to continue their registration. Information will be sought on the present activities of these students and their reasons for discontinuing their education.

5. Graduates: A study will be made of graduates to obtain data on their present activities and to obtain evaluations of their community college experiences.

Analysis will be in terms of the community college total and each campus. Entering students are classified as "new to higher education" or transfers, and data, by sex and program (liberal arts, vocational education, and other), will be presented.

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*The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), of which the University of Hawaii is a member, has devoted attention to the development of student flow models as an integral part of the Resource Requirements Prediction Model (RRPM).

Preliminary Plans

These plans are preliminary, and modifications will be made, depending on further discussions of this project, the results of early studies, and availability of funds and personnel. At this early stage of the student flow project, the following efforts are being planned:

1. Entering students for the Fall 1974 semester were identified as "new" or "transfer" and will be studied for six semesters. Their continuing/non-continuing rates, changes of majors, withdrawals and graduations will be summarized.

2. Entering students for Fall 1975 were identified as "new" or "transfer" and will be studied for six semesters. Applicant no shows were studied in Fall 1975 and non-continuing students will be surveyed in Spring 1976. A later study of graduates is contemplated.

3. Entering students for each semester beginning Spring 1976 will be identified and studied in the manner specified in item 2 above.

Concluding Comment

Hopefully this student flow project will provide the University of Hawaii with data which enable:

--descriptions of non-registrants, continuing and non-continuing students, and graduates.

--evaluations of community college experiences by continuing and non-continuing students and graduates.

As data are gathered each semester, the next step may be taken: the development of a student flow model which will be able to predict, by various selected parameters, the clientele of the community colleges in Hawaii. Such a model, together with academic crossover data, will materially contribute to personnel, budget and facility planning.

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